

# USAF Public Health Career Field News

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## Enlisted Promotion Rates for 1998

The following is from

HQ USAF/DP message dated 8 Dec 97:

1. FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR, PROMOTION RATES TO STAFF, TECHNICAL AND MASTER SERGEANTS WILL **INCREASE**, WHILE PROMOTION RATES FOR SENIORS AND CHIEFS WILL REMAIN ABOVE THE TOPCAP (TOTAL OBJECTIVE PLAN FOR CAREER AIRMEN PERSONNEL) MINIMUM PROMOTION RATES.

2. LAST YEAR WE WERE ABLE TO INCREASE PROMOTION RATES TO THE HIGHEST LEVELS SEEN IN THE LAST 10 YEARS FOR STAFF, TECHNICAL AND MASTER SERGEANTS AND WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE 1998 PROMOTION RATES WILL INCREASE FOR THESE GRADES AS WELL. THE 1998 PROMOTION RATE **FOR STAFF SERGEANTS** WILL BE **18.7** PERCENT, UP FROM 18.5 PERCENT IN 1997. THIS IS A 2.1 PERCENT INCREASE SINCE 1996. AGAIN THIS YEAR THE LARGEST INCREASE WILL COME AT THE TECHNICAL SERGEANT GRADE WITH AN INCREASE OF 2.5 PERCENT FROM



THE 1997 RATE. THE 1998 PROMOTION RATE FOR **TECHNICAL SERGEANT** WILL BE **17.6** PERCENT. THIS MEANS THE PROMOTION RATE FOR TECHNICAL SERGEANT WILL HAVE INCREASED BY 6.4 PERCENT OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS.

**MASTER SERGEANTS** WILL HAVE AN INCREASE SIMILAR TO LAST YEARS 2.1 BOOST. THEY WILL RECEIVE A 1.8 PERCENT INCREASE, BRINGING THE 1998 RATE TO **23.4** PERCENT. THIS IS THE HIGHEST PROMOTION RATE FOR MASTER SERGEANTS SEEN SINCE 1987.

3. SENIOR AND CHIEF MASTER SERGEANTS PROMOTIONS ARE CONSTRAINED, BY LAW, TO NOT MORE THAN 3 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL ENLISTED END STRENGTH.

WITH THIS IN MIND, END STRENGTH IS THE DRIVING FACTOR IN DETERMINING PROMOTION RATES FOR SENIORS AND CHIEFS. BECAUSE END STRENGTHS CHANGE IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO PREDICT FUTURE RATES WITH PRECISION.

HOWEVER, AT THIS TIME WE ANTICIPATE SENIOR AND CHIEF PROMOTION RATES WILL REMAIN WELL ABOVE THE TOPCAP MINIMUM PROMOTION SELECTION RATES

WHICH ARE 6 PERCENT FOR SENIORS AND 13 PERCENT FOR CHIEFS. LAST YEAR THE PROMOTION RATES WERE **7.6 PERCENT FOR SENIORS AND 18.1 PERCENT FOR CHIEFS AND SIMILAR PROMOTION RATES ARE EXPECTED AGAIN FOR 1998.** THE RATE FOR SENIORS WAS HIGHER IN 1997 THAN WE HAVE SEEN SINCE 1991 AND FOR CHIEFS THE 1997 RATE WAS SLIGHTLY LOWER THAN 1996 BUT CONSIDERABLY HIGHER THAN THE PREVIOUS EIGHT YEARS.

4. OUR PEOPLE ARE OUR MOST VALUABLE ASSET IN THE AIR FORCE. WE ARE PLEASED THAT WE CAN HELP TAKE CARE OF OUR PEOPLE WITH ROBUST PROMOTION RATES, AND AT THE SAME TIME BALANCE THE FORCE. THIS IS A GOOD NEWS STORY FOR THE FINE MEN AND WOMEN IN OUR AIR FORCE: HARD WORK AND HARD STUDY WILL PAYOFF BECAUSE PROMOTION OPPORTUNITY IS THERE. THIS MESSAGE WILL BE FOLLOWED UP WITH AN AIR FORCE NEWS SERVICE RELEASE.

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Great News! Go get 'em!

